

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**On page 1 after the title, please insert the following:**

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is based on International Application No. PCT/JP2005/08184 filed April 28, 2005 and claims priority from Japanese Application Number 2004-260928 filed September 8, 2004, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

**Please replace paragraph 10 with the following:**

[0010] A cut off apparatus for cutting off band-like paper is characterized in that the apparatus comprises: a preceding knife cylinder on whose peripheral surface a preceding helical knife is provided; a following knife cylinder on whose peripheral surface a following helical knife, which cuts off band-like paper in cooperation with the preceding knife, is provided; a preceding gear attached at one of the opposite ends of the rotation axis of the preceding knife cylinder; a following gear attached at one of the opposite ends of the rotation axis of the following knife cylinder; a preceding drive gear which has a meshing engagement with the preceding gear; a following drive gear which has a meshing engagement with the following gear; a preceding knife driving motor which rotationally drives the preceding drive gear; a following knife driving motor which rotationally drives the following drive gear, the following knife driving motor having the same rated capacity as that of the preceding knife driving motor; and a cut off control device which individually controls the preceding knife driving motor and the following knife driving motor gear.